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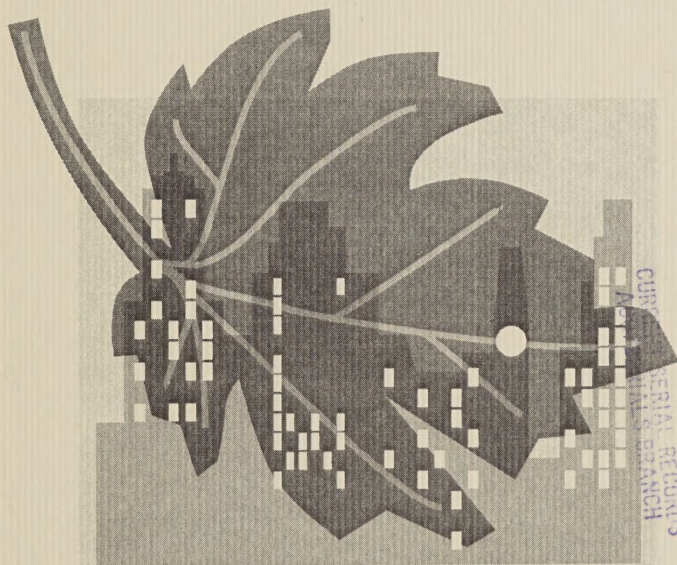
Forest Service

Northeastern  
Area

## Urban and Community Forestry

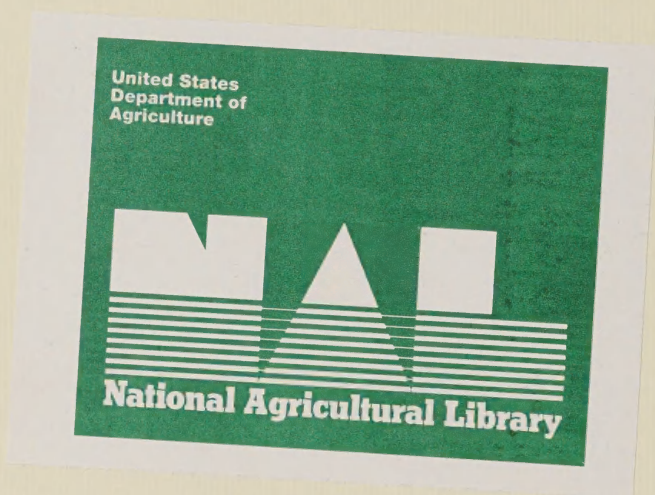
Achievements in 1996

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**Vital Communities  
Through Healthy Ecosystems**

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# Urban and Community Forestry

## Achievements in 1996

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Produced by the Center for Urban Forestry, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration, with state coordinators and Bob Neville at the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.





# Urban and Community Forestry Program Achievements in 1996

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## Responding to America's needs

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### Urban Forestry activities respond to many current societal problems:

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ❧ Deteriorating neighborhoods | ❧ High stormwater management costs   |
| ❧ Poor water quality          | ❧ Unemployment                       |
| ❧ Poor air quality            | ❧ Crime                              |
| ❧ Pollution                   | ❧ Vandalism                          |
| ❧ High energy costs           | ❧ Educational and recreational needs |



These problems are faced daily by urban dwellers--80% of the population.

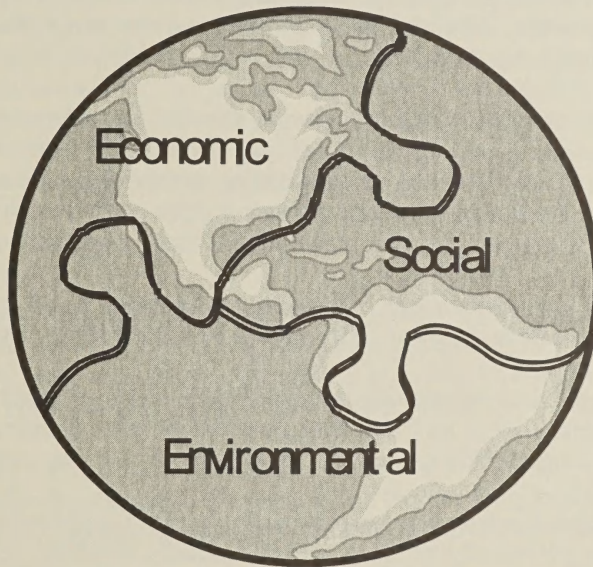
Issues like these cannot be solved solely at the state or federal level--people must become involved, taking responsibility for finding and implementing solutions. Urban forestry projects benefit the people and places most in need.

There are no easy answers. Any effective solution must recognize that the problems we face are interconnected. As a society, we must work towards achieving multiple goals, where environmental health is as important as economic development and social stability, without jeopardizing the ability of our children and grandchildren to do the same.



By investing in urban forests, communities are able to reap wide-ranging dividends. Observed benefits have included:

- ✿ Increased trade and property values in deteriorated areas
- ✿ Lowered incidence of child abuse
- ✿ Decreased demand on social services education
- ✿ Job creation
- ✿ Better air and water quality leading to better physical health
- ✿ Stronger communities with less crime and vandalism
- ✿ More attractive landscapes
- ✿ Hands-on environmental restoration
- ✿ Lower energy bills
- ✿ Less costly public services



As we approach the turn of the century and contemplate the challenges of the next millennium, America's urban residents are becoming acutely sensitive to the quality of their environment. They are increasingly aware of the social and economic benefits that flow in communities where nature's role is acknowledged and optimized. Today's urban dwellers are ready to be personally involved in well-planned projects to enhance their community's quality of life.



## Vital Communities through Healthy Ecosystems

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### The Contribution of the Urban Forest

For every \$1 in federal urban forestry funding, another \$6 are leveraged. The long term benefits of trees are more than twice their cost, for example:

- Trees and landscaping can increase property value by up to 20%.
- Open space performs a vital role in the health of urban ecosystems. Wooded sites in urban areas can reduce stormwater discharge by 40%.
- In the US, one child in seven is treated for asthma related diseases caused by air pollution. Some 150 million citizens breathe air officially designated as unhealthy. However, a tree lined street can decrease airborne dust particles by 80% and reduce the impact of pollution on respiratory related disorders.
- Trees can reduce home heating and cooling costs by up to 30%, potentially saving the Nation almost \$1.5 billion a year.
- Recent studies provide evidence that trees strengthen urban communities. In inner-city neighborhoods, people living in buildings with trees report stronger ties among neighbors.
- Studies suggest that people with strong neighborhood ties are more physically healthy, more mentally healthy, less likely to neglect or abuse their children, and less likely to rely on costly social services in times of need. Outdoor spaces with trees are used significantly more than those without trees.
- Effects of stronger community ties include better physical and mental health, less child neglect or abuse, less violence and a lesser likelihood to depend on social services in times of need.



## Vision and Goals

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### Urban and Community Forestry Vision

The vision for the future of the twenty Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia is to achieve community sustainability and an enhanced quality of life. This can be accomplished, in part, through stewardship of urban and community forests and related natural resources.

Sustainability implies the ability of a community to use its forests and related natural resources to meet its environmental, economic and social needs without diminishing the ability of other communities or future generations to meet their needs as well. The following four goals apply to urban and community forestry programs in the Northeastern Area.

### Urban and Community Forestry Goals



#### Goal 1 - Awareness

Create a responsible public and responsive government by promoting an understanding of stewardship and the social, economic and environmental values of trees, forests and related natural resources in cities and communities.

##### **Example:**

Minnesota Sustainable Communities Conference supports efforts that bring together diverse constituencies to solve common problems.



#### Goal 2 - Outreach and Environmental Equity

Expand program participation by involving people of color, American Indian Nations, people with disabilities and underserved populations in all aspects of urban and community forestry.

##### **Example:**

Projects such as Revitalizing Baltimore focus on local solutions to local problems by assisting communities with technical and financial resources that are needed to address complex inner-city urban issues.



### **Goal 3 - Partnerships**

Create and maintain partnerships that strengthen cooperative working relationships and integrate diverse activities among public and private agencies and organizations at federal, state and local levels.

#### **Example:**

The Urban Resources Partnership projects located in four Northeastern Area cities have been successful in combining the resources of several federal, state and local agencies in creating partnerships with grass roots groups to solve local problems.

### **Goal 4 - Comprehensive Natural Resource Management**

Implement an ecological approach which integrates biophysical, social and economic considerations to support healthy, sustainable communities.

#### **Example:**

The City of Milwaukee has revised its urban forest management plan based upon an urban ecological analysis that links the natural systems of the city to land use and socioeconomic policy planning and decision-making.









## State Accomplishments in 1996

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### CONNECTICUT



*Fred Borman, III*  
*Program Specialist-Forestry*  
*(860) 824-3630*

This year **25 new volunteers** were recruited, trained and supported through the **Meskwaka Tree Project** (107 Meskwaka Cooperators have been trained since the program inception in 1992). Volunteers participated in a weekend training program at Connecticut College Arboretum. Following this training, volunteers returned to their communities to conduct urban and community forestry programming. Over **3,339 hours of volunteer time** was committed to municipal and statewide urban and community forestry efforts worth an estimated \$35,000. A significant aspect of this project is that over the years a majority of the volunteers continued to participate by providing assistance, writing tree ordinances, inventorying the urban forests and advocating for public issues.

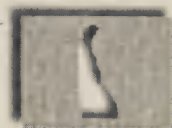
The Department of Environmental Protection instituted a **Pocket Parks** program for vacant and abandoned lots in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford and other urban centers in Connecticut. The Division of Forestry is partnering with the DEP's Office of Environmental Equity, the Bureau of Solid Waste, the Judicial Department Alternative Incarceration (AIC) program, local neighbors and municipal leaders to identify suitable properties, clean them up and **create community gardens and pocket parks**.

A Meskwaka Tree Project volunteer has developed an Extension **Urban Forestry Worldwide Web Site** within the University of Connecticut web site. The extension forestry web site now contains **13 urban forestry fact sheets** that can be downloaded and a list of urban forestry events.



## DELAWARE

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Constance Zipperer  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
(302) 739-4811

An ecosystem-based management project was implemented with the **Village of Arden** for the management of **public open space**. This Village, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is an example of Garden City design. The Urban and Community Forestry Program has a strong partnership with the village planning committee to protect and maintain the surrounding community woodland buffers, conduct community workshops and develop a partnership with the regional office of the National Park Service for technical assistance with long-range planning.

A total of **\$40,290 in grants** was awarded to cities, towns and communities through Delaware's Urban and Community Forestry Program. A \$6,000 community planning grant allowed **Dover** to purchase CITYgreen, a **geographic information system** for environmental planning application. This aided the city's planning department during reviews of proposed subdivisions to maximize the conservation of natural resources for climate control, stormwater management and energy conservation. The other grants went to thirteen communities for tree planting, tree maintenance and **ecosystem-based management**.

**EVERGREEN**, Delaware's urban and **community forestry newsletter**, made its premier with three editions published. This was made possible due to a \$1,500 gift from Delmarva Power. The Delaware Community Forestry Council and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service promotes urban forestry information through the newsletter.



Sandra B. Hill  
Chief, Tree & Landscape Division  
(202) 645-7075

**DC FRESH** was an initiative of Mayor Barry's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Approximately **1,500 youth** of the 13,000 employed by the city for the summer were part of this program. The project was coordinated by the District Forester and funded by a USDA Forest Service grant. The six-week program combined **urban cleanup** of neighborhoods by youth with various **environmental education** components and field trips. Highlights included education on how trash and unsanitary conditions impact individual and community mental and physical health. Field trips included the National Arboretum, US Botanic Garden and the Rock Creek Nature Center.

The Trees and Landscape Division through the **Urban Forest Council** made **grants available** to the local community, volunteer groups and local nonprofit organizations who need seed money to get organized. The grant program helps organizations develop programs that will enhance environmental quality in the local community. The program promotes **volunteerism** and creates an environmental ethic through educating and **empowering local residents** to manage their urban forest.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has developed their first **inventory** and is in the process of developing a **management plan**. The inventory will assist the department, community groups and the private sector with identifying the appropriate species to plant on local park property. A series of **training sessions** will accompany the inventory, targeted audience include community based organizations, not-for-profit organizations, science teachers and environmental professionals.

The **Urban Forest Congress** of Washington, DC and the Department of Public Works participated fully in the Congress. As a result of the grassroots effort, minority participation was increased and urban environmental issues were added to the agenda. The Urban Forest Council sponsored and hosted a well attended and highly productive **environmental justice workshop** at the Congress.



Reinee Hildebrandt, Ph.D.  
Urban Conservationist, Program Administrator  
(217) 782-2361

**Illinois' Program** provides technical and financial assistance to communities and local units of government to establish and maintain effective urban and community forestry programs. For example:

- Since 1990 over **\$800,000 in grants** have been provided to **105 communities**, generating a local match of \$880,000.
- Projects include: 50 street tree inventories, 21 management plans, 28 public education projects, 22 tree planting projects and development of 26 tree care ordinances.
- In 1996 alone, **29 communities** received **\$187,275 in assistance**.

**Tree City USA** program accomplishments are outstanding:

- Illinois leads the nation in the Tree City USA Growth Award program.
- With **136 communities** achieving Tree City USA status, Illinois ranks second in the nation.
- **Two award ceremonies and workshops** were held to recognize the 1995 Tree City USA award winners.

**Regional Urban and Community Forestry Councils** have been developing throughout the state. Currently seven councils are in formation. Special initiatives include providing educational materials to libraries, developing urban forestry public service announcements, promoting environmental education and assisting with Regional Urban Forestry workshops.

The *Prairie Tree Companion*, a **quarterly newsletter**, has been in print since 1991. It informs communities about technical updates, program initiatives and opportunities around the state and nation. Two thousand copies were distributed.

During the last three years, the Division of Forest Resources hired a total of **16 interns**, as part of its **Urban Forestry Internship Program**, to provide technical assistance to communities through the field staff and the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States.





John Parry  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
(317) 582-2410

**Cool Schools Grants** promote educational activities and tree planting projects for energy conservation. Highlights include:

- Providing **\$69,994** which was **locally matched by \$82,213** to 17 schools for projects.
- Planting 967 trees for energy conservation and to serve as educational demonstration projects for communities.

The statewide **"Rotatree"** Program sponsored by the Rotary Club in cooperation with The National Tree Trust, established a **10,000 tree nursery** to grow trees for communities. Trees were distributed in the fall after one growing season to universal size.

Urban Forest Conservation Grants were used to establish an extension urban forestry position at Purdue, conduct a series of workshops on developing with nature, provide tree climber training, and conduct two studies in Indianapolis, one on urban riparian areas and another on climate. Specific funding activities include:

- **\$171,413** distributed to **22 communities**
- \$39,752 given to six nonprofit organizations to help develop urban tree programs
- Other nonprofit projects including a **Tree Master** program in Marion county and a statewide **Back Yard Tree Farm** program.

**Volunteer Program activities** in Indiana are coordinated by a part-time Community Outreach Coordinator and include:

- Assisting communities and volunteer groups in starting and improving urban forestry programs.
- Providing **9 workshops** across the state to over **400 people**. The workshops addressed basic tree care, initiating urban forestry programs, trees for energy conservation, grant writing, utilizing urban wood waste and managing forest land in the urban fringe.

Community Outreach efforts included **"Project 180"** with the Indianapolis Clean City Committee to conduct beautification projects at Indianapolis School sites. Over **1,000 elementary students** planted more than **200 trees** around their schools.





*John Walkowiak*  
*Urban Forester*  
*(515) 242-5966*

Statewide implementation of **Trees for Kids and Trees for Teens** education and planting programs--a cooperative effort of schools, state government, nonprofit organizations and private companies.

Accomplishments from these programs include:

- **\$42,400 donated** by private companies.
- 4,200 teachers received conservation education materials to work with over **345,000 Iowa elementary and secondary students**.
- 6,000 wooden tree cookie necklaces and tree shaped Benticils were distributed.
- 2,500 copies of a new 8 minute video, "**Iowa's History is In Its Trees,**" was developed and distributed to every school and public library in honor of Iowa's Sesquicentennial statehood celebration.
- **65,440 trees** planted with a wholesale **value of \$956,000**.

The **Iowa's Urban and Community Forestry Council** promoted urban forestry through:

- Publishing and distributing the Council's "Community Trees" quarterly newsletter to over **7,000 community leaders**.
- Coordinating the 6th Community Forestry Awards program for volunteers, professionals, communities and Arbor Day Poster contest winners.
- Working with **Trees Forever**, a statewide nonprofit developing volunteer training for over **300 communities** to promote development of local urban forestry funding.

Iowa DNR contracts enabled **Iowa State University Extension Forestry and Horticulture** to offer a series of information workshops and training opportunities, including:

- **525 individuals** across the state attended **23 community tree workshops**.
- Continued expansion of the highly successful "Community Tree Steward Program"--**144 graduates** providing over **4,500** hours of community service since inception. "Youth Tree Stewards" training was provided to **783 fifth and sixth graders** who then worked on many school projects related to trees.

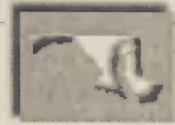


*David Spicer*  
*Community Forestry Coordinator*  
*(207) 287-4980*

Communities across the state are turning to the **Community Forestry Program** for assistance in the planning and management of their natural resources. **Managing town forest woodlots** and other open/green space appear to be a high priority for many Maine communities. These forested areas are located throughout the state, from downtown Portland to Eagle Point.

**Cumberland** has taken the initiative by creating a tree board and focusing on local resources. They have created a self-interpretive trail on their town forest and are actively managing the land for recreation and timber production. The **Tanglewood 4-H** and Learning Center in the **Camden area** has created a 1/4 mile handicap accessible interpretive trail through the woods. Their primary goal was to develop this as a local educational resource. This site will allow for demonstrating tree care principles.

The number of assists to communities has been steadily increasing through Fiscal Year 1996. Since the inception of the program in 1992, 56 new tree boards have been established statewide. In the last four years, **64 communities** have received funding and assistance to develop management plans, carry out a street tree inventory or establish a tree board. Communities like **Fort Fairfield** are implementing plans, utilizing inventory data and taking direction from tree boards. Fort Fairfield has a locally supported tree planting program and one of its goals is "to become one of the most attractive communities in Maine."



*Steve Koehn*

*Associate Director, Maryland Forest Service*

*(410) 974-3776*

Responding to the increasing pressure on forests and trees from land development and urbanization, Maryland has emphasized not only traditional street tree planting and individual tree management, but has focussed on addressing broader environmental and social outreach issues and concerns. Greater emphasis was placed on developing partnerships, education and outreach to suburban and urban dwellers and ecosystem-based project management.

**TreeMendous Maryland** sponsors or assists with dozens of volunteer and community tree plantings throughout the state. As part of a service-learning project, 88 students from the South River Middle and High Schools planted 155 maples, oaks, redbuds and pines at a local science center. United Way of Central Maryland has been a committed partner of the Maryland Forest Service for many years. In 1996, over 350 volunteers from 8 corporations spent their **"Day of Caring,"** planting **700 large trees** and shrubs through TreeMendous Maryland.

In 1996 as part **Port Towns Revitalization Effort**, 175 volunteers from Prince George's County and suburban Washington, DC planted approximately 1,500 feet of riparian buffer along the Anacostia River, in the Washington Metropolitan sub-watershed of the Potomac River. Partnering with the **Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources**, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the town of **Colmar Manor** and a number of volunteer groups, MD DNR-Forest Service staff planned and implemented a major restoration project.

Maryland DNR-Forest Service assisted the **Bel Air Tree Committee** in the completion of a plan for State Route 22. The final design, which included 139 shade trees, 80 evergreens and 134 flowering trees, was a collaboration between the committee and the state Forest Service.



*Phillip Rodbell*  
*Urban Forestry Coordinator*  
*(617) 727-3180*

Through its federally funded grants, the **Massachusetts Urban Forestry Program** has provided tangible incentives for partnerships, fostered a greater commitment to the urban forest, mobilized individuals and nonprofit groups to act on behalf of trees, and served as a catalyst for communities to solve their own problems. For example, with federal and state assistance, the **Boston Tree Party** and the **Neighborhood of Affordable Housing** sponsored an 11 week tree-watering program for newly planted trees in Boston, that involved local businesses, schools and neighborhood associations, as well as **400 hours of labor from 75 residents**.

Federally funded urban forestry programs assisted communities and nonprofits with building support for community trees and forests. The program offered more than **\$100,000 in financial aid** and hired a "community forester" to provide direct technical assistance to communities. The Forestry Bureau now has the service of a halftime Community Action Forester to assist the urban forestry coordinator in providing direct assistance to community lessors and volunteers. A community forester was also hired by **Lowell Parks** and the Conservation Trust to coordinate its **2000 for 2000 Project**, which is an effort to plant **2,000 trees** city-wide by the year 2000 to improve the quality of life.

With federal and state assistance, **Earthworks, Inc.**, a nonprofit environmental group, was able to extend its innovative urban orchards program to neighborhoods in Roxbury, Dorchester, Somerville and Cambridge by hosting **45 workshops** and training 70 culturally diverse residents in the cultivation of fruit trees in urban soils. More than 25 of the participants became caretakers of fruit gardens on vacant lots, school yards and parks throughout the area, and more than 75 fruit trees and vines were planted for local consumption in low income neighborhoods. Since 1990, through its **Urban Orchards program**, the group has planted food-bearing plants in school-yards, abandoned lots, hillsides, housing projects and any other urban crevice where plants may grow.





*Cara Boucher*  
*Urban & Community Forester*  
*(517) 335-3354*

**Building with Trees** was presented in October 1995 and was cosponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Pella Windows in partnership with the Michigan DNR, the Michigan Association of Home builders, Grand Rapids Home Builders and Urban Options. This high quality program was attended by over **45 people** from a variety of sectors including municipalities, landscape architects and builders.

**Trees, People and the Law**, which was cosponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation, Detroit Edison and Michigan DNR, was the first one-day workshop in the country based on a seminar offered at the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska. The workshop provided information on legal history, precedent and current trends in the law to **80 people**.

An **Arbor Day Education Booklet** targeted for elementary school-aged children was developed and distributed to over **500 teachers statewide**. Educators responded positively to the information, and the booklet serves as an important resource for students that participate in tree planting and care activities at home and at school.

Arbor Day **Mini-Grants of \$200** each were available to **113 schools and municipalities** for Arbor Day activities, tree plantings or library material acquisition for educational purposes. The initial **\$22,000** in funding **leveraged over \$64,000** in matching funds from participating schools and municipalities.

A **statewide Arbor Day Celebration** was held in the State Capitol in Lansing. It included twenty activity stations for second and third grade students with over **600 students** attending. Stations included storytellers, tree identification, wildlife, worm composting, Smokey Bear and Wendy the Waterdrop.





*Peggy Sand*

*State Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator*

*(612) 772-7562*

The **Minnesota ReLeaf** program provides funds and promotes energy conservation tree planting projects. Highlights include:

- **\$400,000** from the Minnesota Legislature to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for matching grants to communities and for educational materials.
- **\$603,000** in local funding and in-kind contributions, over **60 communities** received grants for projects, and **12,500 trees** were planted.

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's **Tree Emergency Response Task Force** organized to address issues surrounding trees and storms. Accomplishments from this Task Force include:

- Distribution of several hundred "Storm Response" folders.
- Development of an informational display and educational materials and programs for planning, response and recovery.
- Participation at the first national "Storms Over the Urban Forest Conference."

The successful **Cooperative Suppression Program for Oak Wilt** reduces the threat of this serious disease by involving the USDA Forest Service, Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and about **100 local programs**. Accomplishments include:

- Assistance to over **2,500 landowners** for treating for oak wilt.
- Hosting the Millionth Foot Celebration on August 20, 1996, to commemorate the length of vibratory plow line used to prevent the spread of oak wilt.

Through a grant from the Northeastern Area's Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States, a **Hazard Tree Train-the-Trainer workshop** was developed by a team of federal, state and consulting foresters. The workshop provided both in-depth classroom and field training to **45 people** from **10 states**.

The **TREES for Teens** program was developed by the Twin Cities Tree Trust, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota/Extension Service. High school students learned about urban forestry, and peer education and community projects were pilot tested in five high schools.



*Lisa Allen*

*Field Programs Supervisor*

*(573) 751-4115 Ext. 120*

**Branch Out Missouri** provides grants for tree planting projects across the state. The program provides 60% of the tree planting costs and offers an additional 10% bonus for Tree City USA communities, or the use of a contractor for the purchase and installation of trees.

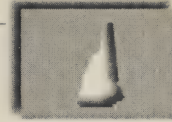
The Department of Conservation continued to fund the restoration of **Tower Grove Park** in St. Louis. This is part of a multi-year project of tree planting and pruning to improve the safety and appearance of the site. Park use has increased significantly as a result of this project.

The Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council sponsored a statewide **Arbor Day Poetry Contest**. The purpose of the contest was to encourage fourth grade students to express in poetic form the importance of trees in their lives. Over 1,000 poems were submitted and judged on a regional basis. All winners received a framed certificate of recognition, and in honor of each winner, a tree was planted on the grounds of their school.

The Department of Conservation provided a grant to **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri** for statewide expansion of their activities. The purpose of the grant is to develop one new Forest Relief chapter in each of the nine urban forest regions in the state. Two new Forest ReLeaf efforts have started--one in the St. Joseph region where a new chapter was formed, and another in Springfield where the Ozarks Greenways organized a **volunteer community forestry project**.

Two **Hazard Tree Identification and Maintenance Workshops** were held for conservation department employees and municipal tree care workers. Over **60 people** attended. The training was well received and will be repeated in 1997.

Funding and technical support was provided to Forest ReLeaf of Missouri to develop a partnership tree nursery called **Project CommuniTree**. This partnership will use volunteers to plant and grow more than **50,000 seedlings** into trees for communities in the **St. Louis region**.



*J.B. Cullen*

*Administrator, Forests Information and Planning  
(603) 271-3457*

The **Community Tree Stewards Program** is an innovative approach by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to encourage volunteer stewardship in urban and community forestry. During 1996, **community tree stewards** volunteered a total of **3,090 hours** with 1,258 hours volunteered for projects in Manchester. Over **30 New Hampshire cities and towns** benefitted from this program. Based on an average park worker salary of \$6.93, the volunteer effort was valued at \$8,500.

In 1996, eighteen high school-aged campers from fifteen New Hampshire communities participated in **Conservation Camp**. The Camp has been a key component of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests youth education program since 1947. It recently shifted its focus to the urban ecosystem. Fourteen campers came from towns within the Merrimack River Watershed. The curriculum is designed to provide a balance of environmental education activities and recreational/social opportunities for the campers. The experience motivated them to become more involved in their local neighborhoods by becoming tree wardens and community tree stewards.

The **Backyard Tree Farming Program** is taking responsibility to care for the land so that it will be healthy, productive and beautiful now and in the future. In 1996, **Community Tree Stewards** and the extension educator with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, redesigned the Backyard Tree Farm Program so as to allow urban property owners that have less than an acre of land to participate in the program. A unique, new aspect of this program is identifying contiguous property-owners in urban areas with less than one acre. The new feature mobilizes formerly isolated individuals into partnerships for ecosystem-based landscape management.



*Michael V. D' Errico*  
*Community Forestry Coordinator*  
*(609) 292-2532*

A significant project was the partnership and community involvement that occurred between **Public Service Electric and Gas** and the New Jersey Community Forestry Program. This **cooperative arrangement** with one of the world's largest energy suppliers focused on sharing the **"right tree--right spot"** concept across the state. A slide show presentation/discussion forum has been developed by a member of the Community Forestry Program and PSE & G's utility forester to discuss tree protection and "right tree--right spot" with municipalities and community groups. Over thirty communities have been reached with this program.

Eastside Neighborhood Association continues its efforts to make **Eastside Park** in Paterson, New Jersey a peaceful, safe environment to enjoy nature in the city. Latest achievement in this historic park is the development of the **Paterson Urban Rangers**--a volunteer corps of trained law enforcement members that patrol Paterson's parks. After a workshop on urban tree protection, the rangers are able to spot and report tree hazards and educate the public as the park is patrolled.

Over **1,000 AT&T employees and family members** at three New Jersey sites participated in forestry tours, games, crafts and tree planting. Volunteers at one site planted over **27,000 seedlings** in the community forestry greenhouse. The seedlings are awarded to Tree Cities for use in their Arbor Day Celebrations. At two other sites, land was reforested with native species grown at the state tree nursery. Over **1,000 trees** were planted on these sites creating a link between what were previously "forest islands." AT&T announced a \$10,000 gift to support the community forestry greenhouse. This project is an example of successful cooperation between corporations, state government and local government.





*Peter J. Frank*  
*Supervising Forester*  
*(518) 457-7370*

In 1996, over **250 people** of diverse backgrounds attended one of three New York Releaf workshops given on various topics. The workshops were a means of establishing effective lines of communication between urban forestry professionals, landscape designers and other resource managers.

A workshop held in Ithaca, NY focused on **alternative tree planting techniques** such as the use of **bare root trees** for street tree plantings. Attendees got a first hand look at how bare root stock is chosen, processed and planted. This **cost-effective method** allows volunteers to plant trees that have a better chance of survival. The **New York City ReLeaf Committee** organized a "town hall" style forum with representatives of government, nurseries, academic programs, arborists and landscape architects to have a round table discussion in front of the conference attendees. The conference provided many professionals with a better understanding of how their role fits into the bigger picture and the importance of communication at all levels.

**New York State Tree Nursery School Seedling Program** is a unique statewide effort which gives new direction for the state forestry nursery in a period when state forestry commission nurseries are declining. The nursery markets specialty tree seedling packages adapted to each school's needs. An **urban wildlife tree seedling package** composed of **25 trees** is designed for urban situations, while a larger package is available for schools in rural areas. The program emphasizes community service and hands-on education for school kids by allowing them to carry out the tree planting.





*Drew Todd*  
*Urban Forestry Coordinator*  
*(614) 265-6707*

Ohio's urban forestry mission remains focused on providing municipal officials with the organizational and technical urban forestry assistance needed to address their local needs. The **Urban Forestry Advisory Committee**, a cross-section of Ohio's green industry and user groups, supports the program's mission by advising on current programs and policies, recommending new directions and opportunities, providing feed back on administrative initiatives and generally advocating the program.

One component of Ohio's urban forestry strategy, enhanced by the Advisory Committee involves linking communities that have urban forestry needs with the green industry that can fulfill them. This is accomplished electronically through the Internet using the **Worldwide Web**. Communities can access a homepage to see Ohio's urban forestry purpose statement, project map, advisory committee minutes, meeting announcements, TREE CITY USA accomplishments and community grant information. The Urban Forestry web site not only allows for greater dissemination of information, but also provides an opportunity for direct communication. Through the program's Open Forum, city foresters, mayors and the general public have the opportunity to post comments, questions and answers. <http://hortwww-2.ag.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Forestry.htm>

**CLEAN-LAND OHIO**, a **Cleveland** area nonprofit group, formed a partnership with the Division of Forestry in order to offer expertise in tree planting and care to local communities throughout the state. The Urban Forestry Program facilitated meetings and a proposal with the City of Columbus to sponsor this effort in central Ohio.



*Norman L. Lacasse*  
*Urban & Community Forester*  
*(717) 783-0385*

A significant accomplishment for 1996 was the development of a biannual magazine, **Sylvan Communities**. The magazine, which has been well received and generates income from advertising, features full-length articles on urban forestry and community success stories.

Over the past year, the five regional **Community Tree Associations** (CTAs) have become formalized with the approval by the IRS of their affiliate status. This is important for state urban forestry because it allows tree associations to raise funds under nonprofit status. It further supports regional CTA development and autonomy by facilitating the partners' collaboration with state and federal programs.

In fall of 1996 the southeastern region urban forester, in conjunction with the southeastern CTA and the Pennsylvania U&CF Council received its **first private sector grant award** from the William Penn Foundation. This focus grant will expand the Council's urban forestry activities in the southeast through the development of a leadership program for training community tree stewards.

Several symposia were sponsored with federal assistance. In partnership with the Montgomery County Planning Commission, the workshop, **Riparian Buffer-- Living Along the Stream**, was held in Kulpville, PA. Over **150 people** learned stream ecosystem restoration techniques and legal issues regarding riparian buffer zones, including the introduction of the first riparian ordinance for the county.



*Bruce Payton*  
*Community Forester*  
(401) 647-3367

The **1996 Notable Trees of Rhode Island Calendar** was a true success as a major public awareness project. Many citizens of Rhode Island now know about the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Council because of the calendars. They were widely distributed through retail stores, business mailings, events, garden clubs, schools and libraries. Governor Lincoln Almond praised the efforts of the Council, "...to increase and enhance the natural beauty of Rhode Island." A major Rhode Island bank has continued its support for the calendar with a **\$10,000 grant**, an indication of its credibility and acceptance of the Forest Council and its mission.

**Trees, Law and Medicine: Tools for Shaping Healthy Communities** was the title of the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry 1996 annual conference. The theme grew out of a workshop at the 1995 National Urban Forest Conference that several Council members attended. The thought provoking research on domestic violence presented during this workshop by **Professors Frances Kuo** and **William Sullivan** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was incorporated into the conference program. Their research, which documented that **trees planted in urban areas help reduce domestic violence and crime**, formed the theme of the 1996 annual conference. The Council decided to attempt to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people by educating the state's policy makers. The conference was widely acclaimed by the press. As a result, the Council has been asked to write a user friendly landscape maintenance and management guide for the largest public housing complex in the state.

The Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry Council is a very active and dynamic group that continues to energize and promote urban forestry efforts. Over **25 people** met and developed the **5 year plan** for the **Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Council**. Goals and objectives were set and tasks assigned to various committees. The Council continues to support urban forestry with its various grants including one to incorporate Urban and community forestry into the state's Forest Resource Plan.



*Steven J. Sinclair*  
*Urban and Community Forester*  
*(802) 241-3678*

Vermont continues to build sustainable local and community forestry programs through a combined effort of technical assistance, educational opportunities and cost-share grants. The urban and community forestry program completed the last year of its five year **Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan** accomplishing 90% of the action items. In the past fiscal year, efforts were concentrated on updating the Five Year Plan, developing a new leadership training program **Stewardship of the Urban Landscape** and continuing to emphasize technical assistance to homeowners, municipalities and the green industry.

Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program managers launched the **Community Planning Initiative**. Designed to provide one-on-one technical assistance, the initiative provides several towns an opportunity to integrate urban and community forestry into their local planning efforts. Five towns received staff assistance including **Wallingford, Pownal, Windham, Harford** and **Rockingham**. Towns were identified based on recommendations of Vermont's **12 regional planning commissions**. In Windham, assistance is being provided to the Conservation Commission in a study of Windham's three forest districts. Activities include resource mapping, goal setting, field visits, community meetings and investigation of various strategies for future management.

A unique **community leadership program, Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL)**, was developed for people to enhance their leadership skills while they learn how to get more involved in their communities with urban and community forestry as well as landscape issues. SOUL offers forty-four hours of training through a series of educational modules and weekend retreats. Participants will gain new communication skills and group process skills, while improving their ability to advocate and care for urban trees and forests through community groups and local governments.





*Robert Hannah  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
(304) 367-2793*

West Virginia is using trees obtained from the **National Tree Trust** to compensate for the loss of federal funds formerly provided by the US Small Business Administration Tree Planting Grants. Since many communities lack secure storage and adequate maintenance capabilities, **663 seedlings** have been grown for the past season at the Clements State Tree Nursery. Communities and volunteer groups will make application to the Division of Forestry for the use of these trees. The goal of this effort is to make low cost trees available to small volunteer groups and communities that have been financially unable to participate in more costly grant programs. An additional 1,500 seedlings have been ordered this year to continue the program into the 1998 planting season.

The **Demonstration City Grants** made possible by the USDA Forest Service funding continues to be an essential component of the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry program. Twenty-six **(26) applications were funded** in 1995 totaling **\$65,223**. A wide variety of community projects provided excellent demonstration areas to promote urban forestry. Schools were targeted by this program this year, resulting in four groups of students becoming involved in urban forestry. In Rommey, grant funds assisted in the creation of an arboretum and learning area on the grounds of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind.





*Richard Rideout*  
*State Urban Forestry Coordinator*  
*(608) 267-0843*

Four **new publications** were produced by the DNR to assist communities and volunteer groups with urban forestry management: "Technical Guide to Developing Urban Forestry Strategic and Management Plans;" "Urban Forestry Consultant Directory;" "Urban Forestry Video Directory;" and "Tree City USA Application Packet."

A "**Tree Establishment**" **workshop** was held at **12 locations** around the state, and a "**Tree Pest Basics**" **workshop** was held at **14 locations**. Over **500 people** attended each series. A consultant was hired to conduct the workshops, in an effort to demonstrate to communities what consultants can offer and to stimulate consultant resources in the state.

In a major outreach effort, DNR Urban Forestry produced a 16-page magazine entitled, "**The Forest Where We Live - Caring for Trees in Towns and Cities**," that introduces people to the concepts of urban forestry.

A DNR Urban Forestry grant helped initiate the establishment of an **Urban Forestry Education Center at Olbrich Botanical Gardens**. The Center will allow visitors (over 200,000 annually) to learn about the benefits and importance of trees in their landscapes and lives.

A **Website** was established to provide easy access to all aspects of urban forestry assistance including program information, DNR staff, grant information, consultants, publications, Tree City USA information and Arbor Day programs. The site links to an extensive list of other urban forestry organizations, searchable bibliographies, references and other state urban forestry homepages.

American Forests conducted an **Urban Ecosystem Analysis** of the **City of Milwaukee**. The project mapped existing ecological conditions and used GIS technology to analyze the importance of natural resources. The methodology interpreted resource functions and quantified their financial benefits to explain their value.



**Building  
Healthy  
Communities**

**Through**



**State &  
Federal  
Cooperation**



## 2. The Federal Program

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The Federal Program translates the results of scientific knowledge to implement long-term national strategic plans for comprehensive natural resource management.

It coordinates an overall framework in which all twenty Northeastern Area states participate, while maintaining that each state is best equipped to identify, prioritize and develop its own state plans. The Federal Program provides leadership, finance and technical assistance to individual states.

Because resources are limited and effective long-term solutions depend on meeting economic, social and environmental criteria, the federal program supports and promotes public/private partnerships at the federal, state and local level.

Technical and managerial staff are located in field offices that serve either six-or-seven-state subregions within the twenty state Northeastern Area. New York and the New England states are served from Durham, New Hampshire. The Morgantown, West Virginia office works with the six states in the Mid-Atlantic subregion and the St. Paul, Minnesota office serves seven Midwestern states. There is also a USDA Forest Service urban forester located in Washington, DC to coordinate, federal activities in the Washington metropolitan area. Three Centers of Excellence in Chicago, IL, Philadelphia, PA and Amherst, MA support the technology transfer component of the federal Urban Forestry Program.





This decentralized staffing structure facilitates communication with state level counterparts and assists in regionalized approaches to problem solving. The delivery of technical assistance is aided by the subregional Centers of Excellence that reflect partnerships among Forest Service Research, universities and conservation organizations.



**The Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States**  
*Chicago, IL*

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The Mission of the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States is to identify urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information that results in healthy communities and ecosystems. The Center is a USDA Forest Service cooperative effort between Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the North Central Forest Experiment Station.

This year the Chicago Center was active in providing technical assistance to the Urban Resources Partnership project in Chicago and the restoration of the Chicago Wilderness. Other technology transfer activities included:

- A poster and accompanying video on proper pruning, targeting homeowners.
- A two-part video designed to inform city council members on the benefits of a managed forest.
- A booklet and accompanying video that targets builders and developers with a message on how to protect and conserve the forest resource and individual trees during development.



**Center for Urban Forestry**  
**Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**  
*Philadelphia, PA*

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The Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania conducts urban forestry advocacy, education, research and demonstration programs serving local, state and regional needs. The Morris Arboretum is a public/private partnership bringing resources of an internationally-known, university arboretum to enhance the Forest Service's capacity to effectively deliver information and technical assistance to a broad range of constituencies concerned with natural resource management and sustainable communities.

While focused in the Mid-Atlantic States, its education and technical assistance programs reach professionals and communities nationwide through workshops, publications, classes and consultations. In 1996:

- Tree care workshops were offered at regional and national conferences of the society of American Foresters, International Society of Arboriculture and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.
- Provided over seventy-five public programs and educational courses with local and regional audiences. Over twenty professional arboriculture training and community natural resource management workshops reached audiences throughout the Northeastern Area.
- Chaired the Philadelphia Urban Resource Partnership (PURP), coordinating a team of federal, state and local organizations delivering environmental services to local groups.
- Directed the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program leveraging over \$1.3 million in private sector funds and utilizing over 86 partnerships to restore community viability through community forestry. This program won several regional awards.



#### **North East Center for Urban and Community Forestry** *Amherst, MA*

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The North East Center for Urban Forestry was created to assist the New England states and New York with developing effective urban forestry management programs focusing on the planning and maintenance of individual trees and forests at the community level. Specific technologies have been developed by the center for linking forest inventories, by community volunteers, with geographic information systems (GIS) to facilitate forest management planning. The use of volunteers and GIS applications will be one of the initiatives expanded upon by the center for use throughout the Northeast over the coming years.

In addition to community-based projects in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, center activities in 1996 focused on communication and coordination among the state urban forestry councils in the seven state area to ensure that their needs are being met by the centers' initiatives.

Communication included the creation of a web site that can spread the urban forestry message throughout the region to engage communities and citizens action groups that are interested in community improvement activities. A major winter storm in central New England provided the opportunity for the center to develop a model storm response for tree damage mitigation that will provide the basis for a series of regional workshops in 1997.



### **3. Federal Financial Assistance**

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For most states, the major share of the federal funding is grouped under two basic systems for allotting dollars, the Base Amount and prorated Urban Forestry Funding. Each state receives a \$150,000 base amount to support federal requirements to maintain a program coordinator, a viable urban and community forestry council and a volunteer program coordinator. The remaining allocation is distributed pro-rata, based on the number of communities and the population of the fifty states and island territories. All the federal funds are matched on a 50/50 basis by the recipients.



### **4. Special Urban Forestry Projects**

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A national challenge grant process is administered annually by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). Five challenge grants were awarded to projects in the Northeastern Area in 1996:

- Global Relief of Michigan received a \$12,000 grant to evaluate the potential of abandoned property in urban areas.
- New Jersey Relief and the Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer Regional Council were funded at \$100,000 to develop a green infrastructure guide to assist planners and policy makers with making decisions that affects natural systems in urban areas.

- New Jersey Releaf received a \$100,000 grant to distribute a user friendly series of books and fact sheets that will serve as resource materials for lay people, municipal workers and professionals to improve the management of New Jersey's urban forest.
- Trees New York and New Jersey Releaf were funded at \$150,000 to conduct a study that will assess the economic impact of community forests in commercial districts in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.
- Rutgers University received a \$107,700 grant to evaluate the effect of urban forestry programs on urban land values in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.



## 5. Congressional Initiatives

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Several congressional initiatives intended to explore an improved quality of urban living through expanded federal, state and local partnerships were funded in Fiscal Year 1996.



### **The Cook County Ecosystem Restoration Project** *Metropolitan Chicago, IL*

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Nearly 68,000 acres, representing 11% of the lands in Cook County (including the City of Chicago) have been protected as a Forest Preserve. The effects of encroaching urbanization, however, have degraded the natural ecological balance of the Preserve where native plant and animal communities have been diminished or lost entirely. In response, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, have initiated a plan to restore the native biodiversity of 80% of the District's holdings.

In 1996 an aggressive ecological restoration effort was carried out as guided by the District's comprehensive restoration plan. Activities continue to focus on the Swallow Cliff Woods site where scientists working with a variety of volunteer groups are developing restoration techniques that can be used throughout the preserve. Prescribed fire is one technique being tested that has not been used on District property for over fifty years.



Inner city youth crews have been teamed up with other volunteer groups to gain work experience and to learn practical skills that can prepare them for the job market. Other groups from inner city schools are using the restoration project as an outreach and educational program.



**Greenstreets**  
*City of Chicago, IL*

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The Chicago Greenstreets Program addresses urban forestry needs in the region by focusing on tree-planting and care, recycling and open space revitalization. The seven year old initiative restores deteriorated neighborhoods and enhances public open space through public/private partnerships which is a cornerstone of the program.

In 1996, 700 additional trees were planted on Chicago's West Side, and 150 more around Midway Airport. The West Side planting has resulted in a major revitalization project and a showcase for the city. Together with the Department of Transportation, Greenstreets created tree medians that run the entire length of a major boulevard making a showy gateway into an underserved community. This planting has transformed a neighborhood of derelict housing and vacant lots into an area known for trendy restaurants and converted loft buildings.

The Ogden Avenue median project has been expanded and two major volunteer plantings along Eisenhower Expressway are completed. Over 500 children participated in the annual Arbor Day Program and over 10,000 trees were recycled during the Holiday Tree Recycling Program.

Future efforts will focus upon extending partnerships with civic and private groups to bring forestry and greening efforts to inner-city areas. Projects will emphasize tree planting and maintenance; management of shrubs, grasses; renovation of abandoned lots and creation of green space in urban areas.



## **Revitalizing Baltimore** Baltimore, MD

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Revitalizing Baltimore, (RB) is a local-state-federal partnership whose aim is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of metropolitan Baltimore and the ecological health of the regions watersheds. Activities in 1996 featured watershed restoration through extensive grass roots participation. Adopt-A-Stream projects involved residents from across the Gwynns Falls watershed who took part in stream cleanup, storm drain painting and tree planting aimed at protecting and conserving water quality, locally and regionally.

Numerous community forestry activities, that included tree planting and the creation of neighborhood gardens, were conducted in cooperation with citizen activists in twenty-nine neighborhoods within the Gwynns Falls watershed. Significant effort was expended to stabilize neighborhoods by restoring vacant lots that attract trash and debris and harbor illicit activities such as drug dealing which is adverse to community well-being.

The KidsGrow program enrolled 290 junior high school age children in a program of environmentalism that teaches them about the natural world and involves them in restoration activities in their own neighborhoods. Other RB programs focus on providing environmental leadership training for high school-age youth through Outward Bound and restoring wildlife habitat in one of the largest urban parks in America.



## **Northeastern Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Demonstration** **Scranton, PA**

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Administered by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Center for Urban Forestry in collaboration with the PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry this program has successfully integrated sound ecological restoration with regional social and economic development. By the fall 1996, the ten projects funded in this two year demonstration program were complete and the program goals accomplished. The success of this program has been recognized on a local, regional and federal level.

Program accomplishments for the Northeastern Urban Forestry Demonstration Program:

- Matched every federal dollar 8 to 1 with local dollars and in-kind services.
- Affected 19 communities and 3 counties with the restoration efforts along the Lackawanna River's 40 mile pedestrian trail.
- Received two regional awards and was recognized by Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge.
- Completed ten projects that foster community awareness and participation in ecological activities which enhanced the region's quality of life.
- Promoted the creation of 1,150 local jobs and expended between \$2.79 and \$4.82 million into the economy; and compiled over 7,000 hours of volunteer labor.
- Restored 2.2 miles of riparian corridor along the Lackawanna River, and planted 1,530 trees, 204 evergreen saplings and 730 flowering trees.



## 6. Urban Resources Partnerships

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The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) is a program that puts federal government resources into the service of community-initiated and community-led environmental projects. At least seven federal agencies, including USDA Forest Service, are providing funding and on-site technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in eight cities throughout the county. Four of these cities--Chicago, East Saint Louis, New York and Philadelphia--are served by the Northeastern Area of the USDA Forest Service.



### CHICAGO URP

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#### **Improving Water Quality & Educating the Community**

Completed in October 1995, the 3-acre Gompers Park wetland restoration project continues to benefit the community residents and local schools in this heavily urbanized neighborhood by improving water quality and educating the community. Residents actively participate by helping to plan, execute and manage the wetlands through workshops and neighborhood planting day. The nonprofit organizations, Friends of Chicago River, continues to partner with local schools using the wetlands as an outdoor classroom.

#### **Chicago River Open Space Enhancement**

For the past two years, ten teens from the Bridgeport Public housing Development have been hired to restore a section of the Chicago River. The youth have built a streambank terrace, a trail system, park benches and actively give interpretive tours of the site. The teens receive instruction from URP partners in tree and plant identification, soil testing and habitat enhancement. The students involvement on this site has increased interest in the land being transferred to the Chicago Park District. When the land is transferred, this area will become the first publicly managed greenspace in the neighborhood.

#### **Working with Youth**

Since 1995, ten youths have participated in a program designed to restore a section of the 20-acres associated with Flatwood Lake at the Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve. This preserve is located in an area surrounded by heavy industry and public housing, and has been neglected for years. The students' hard work of identifying native tree and shrub species, clearing brush, restoring wetlands and developing interpretive trails has created a renaissance for Beaubien Woods.



On any given summer day, area residents can be seen picnicking, fishing and visiting at the recreation area--a previously rare occurrence. As a result of their work on this project, and others in the Chicago area, Fishin' Buddies received the GEO Environmental Award for 1996.

### **Park Ecology, Natural History & Cultural Change**

For the past year, residents of near by neighborhoods and children of neighborhood schools have been actively restoring a 2-acre wetland adjacent to open water in Washington Park. Thousands of residents and school children have participated in this project. Residents and park district employees are designing an interpretive pamphlet that will describe park ecology, natural history design of the site, community history and cultural change.

### **Hands-On Training Experience for Urban Ecologists**

Thirty-four adults recently completed a one-year work experience restoring six-acres of forest preserve to native oak woodlands. Participants studied northeastern Illinois ecology, tree and plant identification, habitat enhancement, soil mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Participants applied their knowledge and developed hands-on-skills working on the preserves. Many of these participants had never worked in natural resources prior to this experience. Based on this aptitude and skill level, the Forest Preserve District has hired several past participants for employment with the District, and other participants are now pursuing natural resources related fields in college.



## **EAST SAINT LOUIS URP**

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### **Vacant & Abandoned Land Transformed to Parks & Gardens**

Six projects in 1996 addressed problems caused by property abandonment. One is The Environmental Awareness Control 2000 project which provided assistance to other projects by clearing dangerous structures and debris from the land and clearing it for the parks, gardens, greenspace and tree plantings that followed. Another example is The Neighborhood Pumpkin/Christmas Tree Farm. This project is a unique approach to utilization of reclaimed land while creating opportunity for youth.

### **Improving Existing Parks, Boulevards & Public Areas**

Six other projects in 1996 focused improvements, renovations, beautification, plantings, vegetation management and facilities developed at four parks, numerous streets, the central business and other visibility area. One project with a long-term impact is "Developing a Tree and Shrub Nursery and Green House in Hall Park."

### **Understand Natural Resource Related Problems**

The remaining six projects in 1996 included educational components by developing a facility, producing a curriculum or otherwise providing an opportunity for people to learn about the natural world. The Blooming Warriors Restoration project worked environmental field studies into beautification plantings, gardens, composting and other land use and restoration activities on school grounds. The Educational Video project provided information of the source of severe flooding, and advocated better storm water, flood water and flood plain management.

### **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement & Pedestrian Access**

In 1997, projects will not only focus on vacant lots tree plantings and gardens but will also include projects aimed at benefiting wildlife. One project is specifically designed to create a bird sanctuary. In addition, two other projects will focus on enhancing rough pathways to provide safe, reliable pedestrian access to public transportation systems and facilities.



## **NEW YORK CITY URP**

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### **Youth Experiences & Diverse Partnerships**

In its debut year, the New York City URP introduced the pilot initiative, 1994 Youth Environmental Program, which funded 13 projects sponsored by 11 organizations that focused on a wide variety of interactive educational experiences for youth. Such topics included: a scientific mammal study in 3 parks; surveying and mapping a forest trail system in a 1,000-acre park in the Bronx; learning about and helping to produce a video on the Black Rock Watershed; Water Quality Studies (river, lake and riverbank restorations in Brooklyn and the Bronx); and developing a pond-bog lab in Harlem. Through actual experiences and practice, youth enhanced their understanding of the natural environment of their communities.

### **Program Planning & Implementation**

In its second year of operation, New York City URP focused on partnerships with community-based organizations, state and city agencies and local community development corporations to build on comprehensive planning efforts already in progress. Three projects have created a physical change within three communities in the South Bronx based on the desires and planning efforts of the community members. One project restored a lot littered with thousands of tons of debris into a garden, playground and safe place for local residents to enjoy.

Another project restored a part of the neighborhood by reclaiming and cleaning a section of the Bronx River. The third project funded and restored a historic landscape, while creating a community garden that will engage residents of a retirement home with Headstart children.

### **Fostering Community-based & Ecosystems Approaches**

Currently, the partnership is working on a variety of projects to enhance the natural environment within the city. There will be listening sessions in communities in all five boroughs to help the partners define the issues across the cities as viewed by the citizens. A research team is working on soil mixes that will help trees survive in the city. In addition, there are several projects involved in developing education and job skills for youth relating to the environment within the communities.



## **PHILADELPHIA URP**

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### **Organizations & Federal Agencies Working Together**

The Philadelphia URP has been very successful in forming partnerships within the city. Nineteen community-based, nonprofit, private, city/local government, state and federal agencies meet each month, seeking ways to promote the more efficient use of financial and technical assistance. To date, over 41 persons have been recruited to work closely with 37 URP projects. Currently, members are working on a natural resource assessment to determine what work has been done or needs to be done in Philadelphia communities.

### **Education & Training**

To increase awareness of the city's natural resources, many educational and training programs have been offered to community residents, teachers and youth. Within the past two years, twenty-four teachers, representing schools throughout the city, participated in a one-week training session on water quality and water resources. Over 80 community residents from different economic and social backgrounds participated in a program for developing and maintaining urban gardens. There were also programs offered to youth. For example, over 200 youth attended an eight-week environmental camp hosted by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation. In addition, ten high school students were enrolled in the newly created summer intern program.

### **On-The-Ground Projects Equals a Healthier Environment**

City streets lined with new trees are providing shade and beauty to the communities, especially in underserved areas. This was accomplished by planting 80 large caliper street trees, 900 bare-root trees and shrubs and 105 container grown trees. Five new urban gardens were implemented and eleven existing ones were improved. One community park was renovated to provide recreational enjoyment to the neighborhood.

### **Surveying Customers to Meet Their Needs**

To determine better ways to improve Philadelphia's grant process, 63 customer surveys were distributed to those that responded to the Fiscal Year 1996 Request For Proposals (RFPs); 25 responded. Through these returns, Philadelphia was able to determine what went well and what needed to be improved. It also aided in identifying better ways to serve Philadelphia's communities. Some other customer-oriented processes included eight community meetings to discuss grant applications and potential projects, and the production and distribution of Philadelphia's *Grants Administration Handbook* to URP partners and other URP cities.



## Budget Summary for Fiscal Years 1994 - 1996

## The State Program

State	1994 Total	1995 Total	1996 Total
Connecticut	284.7	194.5	229.7
Delaware	167.0	163.7	174.7
District of Columbia	324.9	631.8	218.0
Illinois	561.5	377.5	438.8
Indiana	299.0	272.1	299.3
Iowa	235.6	218.2	251.2
Maine	216.9	192.0	230.5
Maryland	467.1	394.7	320.5
Massachusetts	277.1	297.2	288.9
Michigan	342.7	262.3	362.5
Minnesota	297.5	264.5	268.3
Missouri	362.0	380.9	299.5
New Hampshire	281.0	195.9	196.5
New Jersey	803.1	746.1	633.4
New York	619.0	442.2	743.9
Ohio	643.5	530.6	418.5
Pennsylvania	753.3	512.1	629.5
Rhode Island	198.3	212.4	170.7
Vermont	194.3	220.6	185.7
West Virginia	239.1	226.0	242.5
Wisconsin	267.9	330.0	285.8
<i>*Subtotal:</i>	<i>7,835.6</i>	<i>6,865.3</i>	<i>6,888.4</i>

### The Federal Program & Federal Financial Assistance

Federal Program	1390.3	1588.8	938.8
Federal Financial Assistance	334.0	61.0	113.8
<i>*Subtotal:</i>	<i>1,724.3</i>	<i>1,649.8</i>	<i>1,052.6</i>

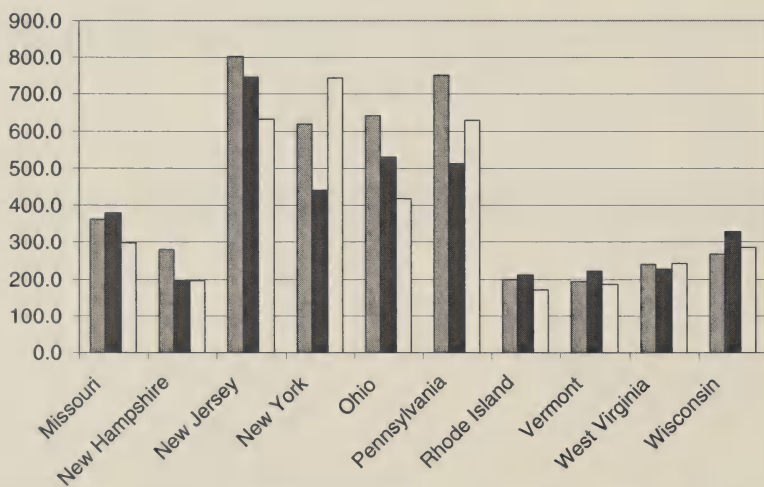
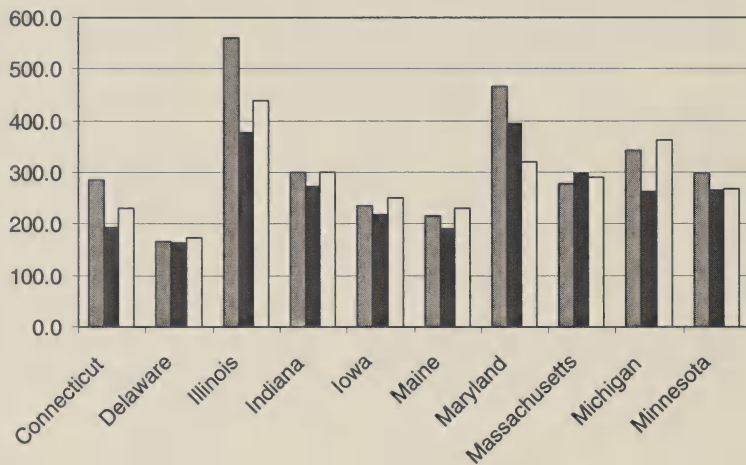
### Special Projects, Congressional Initiatives & Pilot State Projects

Revitalizing Baltimore	489.8	494.0	390.0
Chicago GreenStreet	1000.0	1126.0	700.0
Chicago Wilderness	0.0	0.0	700.0
NE Pennsylvania Project	0.0	500.0	0.0
Cook County Preserve	0.0	879.0	113.0
Ohio Arbor Program	0.0	500.0	0.0
Pilot State Projects	500.0	0.0	0.0
***Special Projects	135.0	150.0	215.0
<i>*Subtotal:</i>	<i>2,124.8</i>	<i>3,649.0</i>	<i>2,118.0</i>

## Urban Resource Partnerships

New York City, NY	471.0	510.0	671.5
Chicago, IL.	0.0	265.0	250.0
East St. Louis, IL.	0.0	250.0	250.0
Philadelphia, PA.	0.0	250.0	250.0
<i>*Subtotal:</i>	<i>471.0</i>	<i>1,275.0</i>	<i>1,421.5</i>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>12,155.7</b>	<b>13,439.1</b>	<b>11,480.5</b>

## State Program Funding 1994 - 1996





## State Urban and Community Forestry Contacts

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### Connecticut

Fred Borman III  
Program Specialist - Forestry  
CT Division of Forestry  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 424-3630



### Delaware

Constance Zipperer  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Department of Agriculture  
2320 South DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 739-4811



### District of Columbia

Sandra Hill  
Chief, Tree & Landscape Division  
Department of Public Works  
2750 S. Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20032  
(202) 645-7075



### Illinois

Reinee Hildebrandt, Administrator  
Urban Forestry Program  
IL Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forest Resources  
600 N. Grand Ave. West  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-2361



### Indiana

John Parry  
Urban Forestry Specialist  
IN Department of Natural Resources  
9245 N. Meridian, Suite 118  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
(317) 582-2410



### Iowa

John Walkowiak  
Urban Forester  
IA Department of Natural Resources  
Wallace State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034  
(515) 242-5966



### Maine

David Spicer  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Maine Forest Service  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022  
(207) 287-4980



### Maryland

Steve Koehn  
Associate Director  
Maryland Forestry Service  
MD Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building, E-1  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 974-3776



### Massachusetts

Phillip Rodbell  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
MA Dept. of Environmental Mgt.  
100 Cambridge St., 19th Floor  
Boston, MA 02202  
(617) 727-3180 X657



### Michigan

Cara Boucher  
Urban & Community Forester  
MI Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Management Division  
Box 30452  
Lansing, MI 48909-7952  
(517) 335-3354



### **Minnesota**

Peggy Sand  
 State Urban Forestry Programs  
 Coordinator  
 MN Dept. of Natural Resources  
 1200 Warner Road  
 St. Paul, MN 55106  
 (612) 772-7562



### **Missouri**

Lisa Allen  
 Field Program Supervisor  
 MO Department of Conservation  
 2901 Truman Blvd., P.O. Box 180  
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
 (314) 751-4115 x120



### **New Hampshire**

J.B. Cullen  
 Administrator  
 NH Division of Forests and Lands  
 P.O. Box 1856, 172 Pembroke Road  
 Concord, NH 03302-1856  
 (603) 271-3456



### **New Jersey**

Michael D'Errico  
 Community Forestry Coordinator  
 Bureau of Forest Management  
 501 E. State Street, CN-404  
 Trenton, NJ 08625  
 (609) 292-2532



### **New York**

Peter Frank  
 Supervising Forester  
 Bureau of Forest Resources  
 NYSDEC, 50 Wolf Road  
 Albany, NY 12233-4253  
 (518) 457-7370



### **Ohio**

Andrew Todd  
 Urban Forestry Coordinator  
 OH Department of Natural Resources  
 1855 Fountain Square Court, H-1  
 Columbus, OH 43224-1327  
 (614) 265-6707



### **Pennsylvania**

Norman Lacasse, Chief  
 Urban Forestry & Wood Utilization  
 Forest Advisory Services  
 DCNR - Forestry - FAS  
 P.O. Box 8552  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552  
 (717) 783-0385



### **Rhode Island**

Bruce Payton  
 Community Forester  
 Division of Forest Environment  
 1037 Hartford Pike  
 North Scituate, RI 02857  
 (401) 647-3367



### **Vermont**

Steven Sinclair  
 Urban & Community Forester  
 Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
 103 S. Main Street, Bldg. 10 South  
 Waterbury, VT 05671-0601  
 (802) 241-3673



### **West Virginia**

Robert Hannah  
 Urban Forestry Coordinator  
 Division of Forestry  
 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
 State Capitol  
 Charleston, WV 25305  
 (304) 558-2788



### **Wisconsin**

Richard Rideout  
 State Urban Forestry Coordinator  
 WI Department of Natural Resources  
 101 S. Webster  
 P.O. Box 7921  
 Madison, WI 53707  
 (608) 267-0843





## Federal Urban and Community Forestry Contacts

---



### **USDA Urban Forestry Program Manager-Northeastern Area**

L. Robert Neville  
USDA Forest Service  
Louis C Wyman Forest Sciences Lab.  
P.O. Box 640  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-7688



### **For the Midwestern States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan, Vermont**

Lisa Burban  
Urban & Community Forester  
1992 Folwell Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108-1099  
(612) 649-5245



### **For Washington DC**

Gracie Joy  
USDA Forest Service  
Cooperative Extension Service Office  
4200 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Building 32, Room B-06  
Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 274-6905



### **For the New England States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont**

Sharon Ossenbruggen  
USDA Forest Service  
Louis C. Wyman Forest Sciences Lab.  
P.O. Box 640  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-7691



### **For the Mid-Atlantic States: Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia**

Dan Kincaid  
USDA Forest Service  
180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown WV 26505  
(314) 285-1524



### **For the Mid-Atlantic States: Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania**

Lisa Ewanow  
Center for Urban Forestry  
Morris Arboretum  
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
(215) 247-577 ext. 107



### **Strategic Planning Coordinator**

Gail Michaels  
USDA Forest Service  
Louis C. Wyman Forest Sciences Lab.  
P.O. Box 640  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-7694

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## **Northeast Area Centers of Excellence**

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### **Center Coordinator**

Gina Childs  
Urban Forestry Center  
Midwestern States  
USDA Forest Service  
845 Chicago Avenue, Suite 225  
Evanston, IL 60202  
(847) 866-9311 ext. 14



### **Director**

Bob Gutowski  
Public Programs  
Center for Urban Forestry  
Morris Arboretum  
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
(215) 247-5777 ext. 132



### **Project Director**

David V. Bloniarz  
Forestry & Wildlife  
Holdsworth Natural Resources Center  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01103  
(413) 545-6626









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